

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Big Blaze in Belfast: £50,000 Damage.—On Friday, September 10, the most serious fire that has occurred in Belfast for many years broke out in the block of linen warehouses at the south corner of Franklin street, and just opposite to the place where another destructive fire took place a few months back. About twenty minutes past two o'clock, Constables Mc Connell and Murphy, who were on beat in the vicinity, noticed smoke issuing in great volumes from the premises of Messrs. W. R. McCall and Co., Linenhall street, and immediately telephoned from Glengall street Barracks for the Fire Brigade. The brigade, with its usual promptitude, turned out, and were in a very brief space of time at work on the fire. Mr. Parker brought all his available men upon the scene. It was at once seen that the fire had got a firm hold of the building, for when the firemen arrived the flames were issuing from the roof. The block in which the fire was faced Linenhall street, Franklin street, and McCavana's place. Numerous gets from the mains were brought into play. The warehouses were occupied by Messrs. W. R. McCall and Co., Messrs. Moore and Weinberg, Messrs. Hugh Macaulay and Sons, Messrs. Elliott Brothers, Messrs. A. A. Johnston and Co., Messrs. Robert McCrum and Sons, Mr. J. B. Elliott, and Messrs. Kidd, Boden, and Co. At the rear of the block in McCavana's place there are a number of small dwelling houses, and the inhabitants were early awakened by the police. The flames were shooting up in great volumes into the air, and so fierce and intense was the heat that the firemen were in the greatest danger, and they had the utmost difficulty in getting to close quarters. Three steamers were got to work, but it was a long time before any apparent result of the brigade's efforts was to be seen. The men worked with all the energy and perseverance of which they have, on former occasions, given abundant evidence. A large crowd had by this time collected, but were kept in bounds by the police, so that they did not impede the operations of the brigade. At the end of two hours most of the warehouses mentioned were burning fiercely. The members of the fire brigade continued to pour water upon the burning mass in large quantities, and in order to do this more effectually in some cases the men had to occupy positions of great peril. They performed their duties with great coolness and nerve, and did not shrink from the most dangerous task. Between four and five o'clock the continued exertions of the brigade began to tell on the flames. A fireman named James Armstrong about this time met with a very serious accident. He was standing near the window on one of the floors of McCall's premises when the floor above fell and hemmed him in close to the wall. He was quickly rescued, but not before he was severely burned. The ambulance was sent for and the injured man conveyed to the Royal Hospital, where he is receiving every care and attention. Shortly after five o'clock the fire was under control and all fear of its spreading to the other warehouses further up the street was at an end. The fire, which originated in the centre of the block, had caught hold of several of the premises ere it was discovered, and the difficulty of reaching it was very great. The inflammable nature of the contents made the task of the brigade one of extreme difficulty. The damage done is estimated at £50,000.

Orange Ruffianism in Belfast: Catholic Houses Attacked.—The Duke and Duchess of York had hardly embarked on board the Royal yacht in the Roads at Carrickfergus when an ill-conditioned section of the populace in Belfast took occasion to vent their party feeling. No one will be surprised to hear that it was left to Belfast to mark the close of the Royal visit by such a display of religious rancour. Excited crowds, carrying sticks, paraded the main thoroughfares singing party songs and acting in a defiant and boisterous manner. The police had to interfere. Many of the children who at times were being conveyed by tram homewards from Ormiston struck up snatches of the "Boyne Water," and in Donegall street expressions insulting to the Catholic religion were, sad to say, loudly used by juniors. After the departure of the Royal visitors from Belfast a military band returned to the Victoria Barracks, North Queen street, escorted by a large crowd. North Queen street is a Catholic and Nationalist quarter. No sooner had the barrack gates been closed on the regimental musicians than the mob began to curse the Pope, sing the National Anthem, and cheer for Sandy row and the Shankhill road. They next flung volleys of stones, of which they had evidently a plentiful supply, towards the houses in North Queen street, and a number of windows were smashed. No opposition party making an appearance, the Orange rowdies moved down Lancaster street, which is mainly tenanted by Catholics, and attacked several houses. The shopkeepers adjoining, alarmed by the violent demeanour and conduct of the mob, tried to shutter their windows, but before they were successful a strong party of the "lambos" demolished the windows in houses in North Queen street. When the pocketfuls of ammunition with which they had come provided were exhausted they picked up loose stones and uprooted others from the footway. The windows in St. Vincent's Hall were smashed, and plate-glass windows in two publichouses were perforated with paving stones. At length a posse of the R. I. C. appeared and the rowdies scattered.

ARMAGH.—Child Attacked by a Ferret.—A singular occurrence took place on Tuesday, September 14, at Kinnego, at a short distance from Armagh. A child, aged nine months, named Anita Grace Rolston, belonging to a respectable farmer named James Rolston, was ferociously attacked by a ferret which the father kept for the purpose of ferreting rabbits and rats. It appears that the child was sleeping in a bed in a compartment separated by two rooms from the place where the ferret was confined in a box. Both the father and mother were out on their farm attending to some harvesting operations, and the father's attention was attracted by the cries of the child. On coming into the house he found that the ferret had broken loose, and had attacked the poor child in the most revolting fashion about the face. Dr.

Fergus, of Blackwatertown, on examining the child and treating it recommended the father to send it to the Armagh County Infirmary, where it now lies under the care of the resident surgeon, Dr. Palmer.

CLARE.—Limerick Magistrate Fined.—An Ennis correspondent writes:—At last week's petty sessions, before Mr. Willis (in the chair) and Messrs Newton Brady, R.M., and H. B. Harris, sergeant Cole, Clare Castle, summoned Mr. Alexander Bannatyne, J.P., Woodstown, County Limerick, for riding a bicycle on the public footpath. A good deal of local interest centred in the case. The sergeant deposed that while he was standing at his barrack door he saw the defendant pass on his bicycle. He called on him at once to halt, but the defendant, getting on the road, continued his journey. Prosecutor pursued him along the street, shouting at him to halt, but the defendant went on until he was stopped by two police men who were returning from patrol. Mr. Kerin, solicitor for the defendant, said the latter thought he had complied with the law when he had got off the footpath when called on. He was not aware he was doing anything wrong by riding on the footpath. The Bench imposed a fine of 1s and 6s 10d costs.

The Shannon Fisheries.—There have been enormous takes of herrings in the Lower Shannon, during the fine weather of September. The principal catches have been on the Clare side of the river. The price is, in consequence of the glut, low. Splendid herrings were sold at the Kilrush market for 1s 10d per hundred of six scores. A large quantity was disposed of at Glin at the rate of 3s 6d per hundred. To the poor fishermen, who had not been able to earn anything for the previous five weeks or more, the "run" of fish has been a regular Godsend. To householders, too, it has been a boon, as they have been enabled to obtain a dainty article of food at a trifling price.

DUBLIN.—The Royal Visit; Telegram from the Queen.—The Lord Lieutenant has received the following telegram and letter:—Balmoral. To Lord Lieutenant, Dublin—I thank you very much for your kind telegram received yesterday evening, and am greatly pleased to hear of the very loyal and kind reception my dear grandchildren have met with everywhere in Ireland, and would ask you let this expression of mine be generally known. V.R.I. Mountstewart, Newtownards, Co. Down, September 8th, 1897. Dear Lord Cadogan—I cannot leave Ireland without expressing to you, on behalf of the Duchess of York and myself, our very sincere appreciation of the warm and enthusiastic welcome which has been accorded to us during our visit by all classes, and in all parts of the country. Nothing could have exceeded the kindness and hospitality which have been shown to us, and the agreeable impressions which we have derived from our visit can never be effaced from our memory. I regret that the limited time at our disposal rendered it impossible for us to see many districts in a country which contains so much that is beautiful and interesting. I hope, however, we may have further opportunities of improving our acquaintance with the people of Ireland, and with the country of which they are so justly proud. Believe me, very sincerely yours GEORGE.

Mr. J. H. Parnell and the Paris Funds.—Mr. J. H. Parnell has written the following letter to the Dublin Freeman:—"Dear Sir.—Would you kindly allow me space in your paper to say something in reference to the dispute now going on in connection with a certain portion of the Paris Funds, which are said to belong to the Parnell estate. I consider it my duty, in justice to my brother's creditors, to corroborate all Mr. Redmond said in his speech the other night in reference to that question. I am glad Mr. Redmond brought out the truth before the notice of the public, and particularly before the notices of the creditors. I have been a long time thinking of exposing the business myself, but refrained. Some people most likely thought Mr. Redmond's speech was a political one; but it is unfortunately all too true. I also noticed some articles in the papers in reference to his speech. Some of the articles were possibly written or inspired by interested people, who are retaining the funds, and who said that my brother never expected the 'personal' debts to be repaid, and that the portion of the Paris Funds now claimed by the Parnell estate was a personal and not a political debt. I deny the truth of these statements. This debt is a political and not a personal debt. I say it was a political debt, and one which he always said should be refunded out of the general Paris Fund. The £5,000 was obtained at the Hibernian Bank and spent for political purposes. My brother borrowed that sum from the bank because he did not like to touch the original fund at the present, as the original fund was invested in securities which he had recommended to be bought with said fund for a rise, and not wishing to prevent securing any profit which might be obtained from a rise, he got the money on his own name from the bank, intending to repay the bank on sale of securities. It is a disgrace, then, to any Irish Party to even wish to retain that portion of the Paris Fund, which was really pledged to the bank. It is a disgrace to deprive my brother's property, and especially his creditors, of the money in justice now due. Now, my brother's property cannot be settled without that portion of the fund being released. I think it is a disgrace to the country at large that his property cannot be settled after pledging it and his name to help on the late Irish political movement. If this sum is not released, and that immediately, his property must pass out of our hands. I have also been given to understand that his creditors are blaming me because his property is not settled and his debts paid off. In justice to myself, I and the other members of the party must deny these charges from the creditors, and must now throw the responsibility on those who refuse to release the fund. My brother's creditor must also insist on that sum of the Paris Fund being turned over to the Parnell estate. It is my duty to push the parties who are refusing to do justice to the man who is dead. I insist on having that sum released. The Parnell creditors have been waiting patiently for years, and they must be paid. It has been bad enough to have hounded my brother to death without